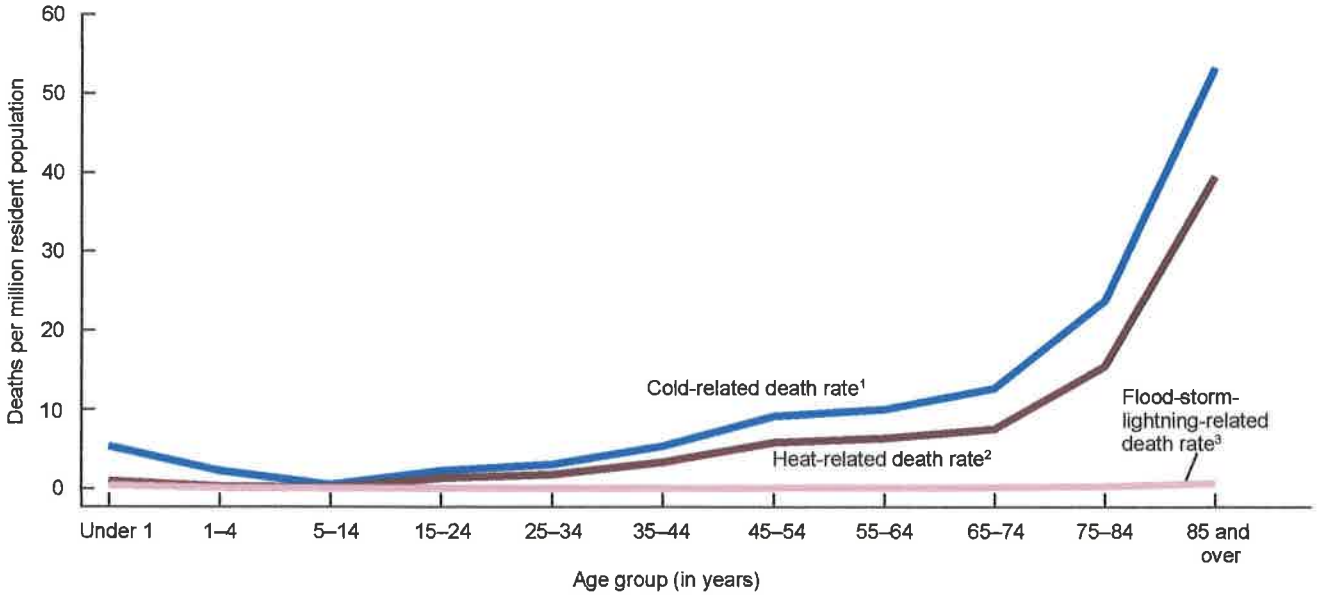
Heat-related, cold-related, and other weather-related death rates varied by age (Figure 1 and Table 2). The pattern across age groups was similar for heat-related and cold-related mortality: progressive moderate increases in the death rates between ages 15 and 74, a substantial increase in the death rate for persons aged 75–84, and an even larger increase in the rate for persons aged 85 and over. The heat-related death rate for infants was higher than the cold-related death rate (4.2 compared with 1.0 deaths per million), but among persons aged 5 years and over, cold-related death rates were consistently higher than heat-related death rates, and the differentials in the rates across the age groups were larger. The heat-related death rate was lowest for children aged 5–14 years (0.1 deaths per million) and increased from 0.5 deaths per million among persons aged 15–24 to 4.5 deaths per million among persons aged 65–74. The rates for persons aged 75–84 (7.5 deaths per million) and persons aged 85 and over (12.8 deaths per million) were substantially higher than those for younger persons. The heat-related death rate for infants (4.2 deaths) was higher than the rates for persons aged 1–44 and as high as the rates for persons aged 45–64.

The cold-related death rate for infants was 1.0 deaths per million, which was higher than the rate for children aged 5–14 but lower than the rates for persons aged 25 and over. Cold-related death rates were lowest for children aged 5–14 (0.2 deaths per million) and increased progressively with age, as was the case for heat-related mortality, with rates increasing from 1.3 to 7.8 deaths per million among persons aged 15–74. The cold-related death rates for persons aged 75 and over were substantially higher than the rates for younger persons: 15.5 deaths per million among persons aged 75–84 and 39.6 deaths per million among persons aged 85 and over.

The rate of deaths attributed to floods, storms, and lightning was low in all age groups (ranging from 0.2 deaths per million for children aged 14 years and under to 1.0 for persons aged 85 and over). Generally, differences among the age groups were not statistically significant for flood-storm-lightning-related mortality.

During 2006–2010, about 68% of the weather-related deaths were among males (Table 3). The age-adjusted heat-related and cold-related death rates for males were more than 2.5 times as high as those for females (3.1 compared with 1.2 deaths per million for heat-related mortality and 6.3 compared with 2.4 for cold-related mortality). Males were twice as likely as females to die due to floods, storms, or lightning (0.6 compared with 0.3 deaths per million).

Non-Hispanic black persons had higher rates of heat-related and cold-related mortality than other race and ethnicity groups during 2006–2010 (Table 3). For heat-related mortality, the rate for non-Hispanic black persons was about 2.5 times that for non-Hispanic white persons and about 2 times as high as that for Hispanic persons. The age-adjusted cold-related death rate for non-Hispanic black persons was 5.8 deaths per million compared with 4.1



[1]Deaths attributed to exposure to excessive natural cold (X31) (underlying or contributing cause of death or both), to hypothermia (T68) (contributing cause of death), or to both, according to the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision.
[2]Deaths attributed to exposure to excessive natural heat (X30) (underlying or contributing cause of death or both), to heat stroke or sunstroke (T67) (contributing cause of death), or to both, according to the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision.
[3]Deaths attributed to floods (X38), cataclysmic storms (X37), or lightning (X33) (underlying or contributing cause of death or both), according to the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision.
SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System, 2006–2010.

Figure 1. Crude death rates for weather-related mortality, by age: United States, 2006–2010